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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating.



States Relations Service, Office
of Extension Work North and West,
Washington, D. C.

This Looks Good

POULTRY CULLING DEMONSTRATIONS.

No demonstration work ever undertaken by county agents has had a more rapid development or more universal acceptance by the public than have the poultry culling demonstrations. Demonstrations of this kind were introduced into extension work for the first time two years ago, although there were a few scattered demonstrations the year preceding. There were 7,246 poultry culling demonstrations held in the Northern and Western States during 1920, attended by 541,366 people. The value of these demonstrations to farmers on the basis of increased profit and feed saved amounts to \$541,000.

This demonstration is a striking example of a direct application of the result of scientific research to a very practical farm problem, and fortunately it is the kind of demonstration that usually "gets the answer" in such a way as to immediately show the value of the method illustrated. The reports of the leaders and agents contain such a wealth of data in regard to this kind of work that it is difficult to make a selection. The following items, however, will, we believe, be of general interest to county agents. Ohio seems to have organized the work especially well, the poultry department of the State college of agriculture cooperating with the agents in a state-wide campaign.

State Leader Johnson of Ohio in his annual report says:

"We visited each county in the State where there was a county agent and in addition three counties without agents. Two days were spent with each county agent conducting what we termed "culling schools." To these schools the county agent had invited his local community leaders to train them for a culling campaign which he was to conduct following the culling schools. This plan was perhaps followed in 50 per cent of the counties. In the other counties where the work ended with the culling school, we find that it was due to a lack of organization in the county for carrying on the work. In no county in the State where the county agent had organized his communities for group work were we disappointed in the results accomplished. In those counties where the local organizations were active, the results were far above our expectations. We have on hand records from these counties to show that as many as 100 demonstrations have been conducted in the county by these local leaders."

County Agent Leader Stene of Rhode Island in his annual report comments on the economic aspect of the work in Newport County as follows:

"Poultry culling demonstrations have been conducted. A systematic record for one flock of the production and cost of up-keep from ten culls and ten of the better birds has been continued. As a result of these records it was ascertained that the good birds during the year ending August 21, 1920 produced 1145 eggs which sold for \$64.97, or a profit of \$28.97 over the cost of feed.

"The culls produced only 735 eggs which sold for \$40.22 and gave a profit of \$4.22 over feed cost. During the six months of the year the culls failed to produce enough eggs to pay for their feed, while in the case of the better birds, they paid for their feed except during two months. The good birds showed a net profit, if labor is figured, while the culls were kept at a loss."

County Agent Leader Deering comments on the work in Maine in the following interesting manner:

"Arrangements are made for demonstrations through project leaders in those communities where considerable poultry is being kept, for a public culling demonstration to be given by the county agent or State poultry specialist. The demonstrator keeps a record of the egg production of his flock one week before, and of both the good fowls and the culls for one week after the demonstration, on blanks provided by the county agent.

"The following summary presents the results of these demonstrations: Over 2,000 people attended the demonstrations with an average attendance of 13.8 persons; 6,387 fowls were examined of which 2,043 or 31.9 per cent were culled out. During the seven day period following the demonstration the culls laid on an average of 5.45 per cent. In 27 per cent of the reports made, it was shown that the good fowls saved laid as many or more eggs than the whole flock did before culling. Considering that the culls were sent to market one month earlier than they otherwise would have been, and at a cost practically of one cent a day per hen to feed, the 2043 culls saved the farmers \$612.90 in feed alone. An agent in a county in which considerable poultry is kept has reported 120 farmers as having examined their flocks and culled out 1,200 fowls following his demonstrations in the county this year."

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